



CONGRESSMAN
CHARLIE MELANCON
LOUISIANA'S 3RD DISTRICT



Congressman Charlie Melancon, Louisiana's 3rd District

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Dear ,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer months. After a busy legislative session, I will be back home in southern Louisiana for the month of August, visiting with constituents and listening to your concerns. I will be in my **Houma office from 9-11am** and my **New Iberia office from 2-4 pm on Tuesday, August 15th**. The following week, I will be meeting with constituents in my **Gonzales office from 9-11am** and my **Chalmette office from 2-4 pm on Tuesday, August 22nd**. I hope to see you there!

At the end of August, I will be leading a delegation of Democratic members of Congress on a trip to the Gulf Coast to commemorate the anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We will also be meeting with local leaders in both Louisiana and Mississippi to discuss how Congress can better help the Gulf Coast recover and rebuild. I hope this trip will inspire these members of Congress to continue the effort in Washington to rebuild – and protect – our coast.

In Washington, I have been hard at work fighting for Louisiana's interests. Here is an update on the House's [offshore-revenue sharing bill](#), the [Water Resources Development Act](#), and a Resolution I authored honoring the ["Hurricane Ride-Out Team" at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility](#). For more news, please see my website at www.melancon.house.gov.

Offshore Revenue-Sharing Legislation Passes House and Senate

Coastal Louisiana is home to 30 percent of the oil and 25 percent of the natural gas consumed in the nation, but the state sees almost none of the \$6 to \$8 billion in royalties the federal treasury acquires every year from drilling in waters off our coast. For years Louisiana has felt the effects of this industry, from damage to the environment, including coastal erosion, to its infrastructure, such as ports and highways.

Working with other leading members of the House Resources Committee, we negotiated the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act (H.R. 4761) from more than two dozen



Rep. Melancon speaks in support of offshore revenue-sharing for Louisiana on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

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outer-continental shelf-related bills introduced this Congress.

On June 29, the House of Representatives passed the DOER Act by a vote of 232 to 187. I was able to build bipartisan support for this legislation, convincing 39 fellow Democrats to vote in favor of it and providing the margin of victory. The bill would provide about \$8 billion for Louisiana over the next 10 years in oil and natural gas royalties.

The U.S. Senate voted earlier this week to pass their version of revenue-sharing legislation later this week. As we enter the next phase of the battle to secure Louisiana's coast, I will continue working with other House leaders to build the bipartisan coalition needed to forge a final compromise. There is still a lot of work to be done, but today Louisiana is closer than we have ever been to getting a significant share of the offshore oil and gas revenues we need, so we can finally begin restoring our disintegrating coastline and building a comprehensive hurricane protection system.

I also want to applaud the Louisiana state legislature for their contribution to this effort. In June they passed an amendment to our state constitution, which will go before voters on September 30, that would dedicate all money the state would receive from offshore revenue-sharing to go toward our most important need in coastal Louisiana: a hurricane protection and coastal restoration program.

This issue is so important to our state as we recover from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The majority of coastal Louisiana has no federal levee system protecting its citizens from these types of storms, and without this funding we will not likely be able to put together a comprehensive hurricane protection program.

The DOER Act would also lower the restrictions on gas and oil drilling on the outer-continental shelf, lowering energy costs, increasing domestic energy production and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

I am pleased Congress is finally moving forward on offshore-revenue sharing legislation that will benefit Louisiana and our nation as a whole. This legislation is about Louisiana getting what it needs to begin to help itself. It is time Louisiana got its fair share of offshore oil revenues.

Senate Passes Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

For the first time in six years, the U.S. Senate has passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The legislation now moves to conference committee, where I hope it will receive a report and passage in both houses by the time we adjourn at the end of September.

WRDA will authorize \$12 million in Army Corps of Engineers projects nationwide, but will especially fund projects benefiting Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

The bill includes \$2.579 billion for Louisiana projects, including \$1.133 billion for the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, which will establish streamlined procedures for authorizing coastal restoration projects without having to wait for the next WRDA bill. These projects are too important to rely solely

Rep. Melancon tells his colleagues why outer-continental shelf drilling is important for America's energy security.

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Most Important Issue for Southeastern Louisiana

What is the most important issue facing southeastern Louisiana today?

- ☐ Hurricane protection/coastal restoration
- ☐ Affordable health care
- ☐ Improving education
- ☐ Job creation
- ☐ Combatting illegal immigration

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- ☐ Education
- ☐ Energy Costs
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on a bill that has had trouble passing the Senate for six years.

Also included in this legislation is authorization for Morganza to the Gulf, allowing local funding projects to continue on schedule. Morganza to the Gulf has been waiting for decades for authorization from Congress. Hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Louisiana have no protection from a storm similar to Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

I am happy to have this project finally passed. I will now work with the conference committee to increase the authorized amount to match cost-leveling estimates from the Corps of Engineers and ensure adequate protection for the people in Southeast Louisiana. If WRDA is signed into law, it will be a huge step toward keeping these people – and their way of life – safe from hurricanes.

Other Louisiana projects authorized in the bill are \$205 million for the Port of Iberia Navigation and Storm Surge Protection, \$185 million for a Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Revolving Loan Fund for Private Facilities and \$175 million for MRGO Relocation Assistance for Public Facilities.

With the passage of WRDA, we are one step closer to accomplishing these important goals for South Louisiana.

House Resolution Honors "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team"

I am proud to announce that on July 24 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. Res. 892, a resolution I authored recognizing the dedication of the 38 employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Michoud Assembly Facility who voluntarily stayed behind during Hurricane Katrina to protect from the floodwaters the valuable space flight hardware critical to NASA's space shuttle program.

As winds exceeded 130 miles per hour and the storm surge topped the 19-foot levees surrounding the facility, the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team" continued to maintain the facility, pumping more than one billion gallons of water out and forming an island of dry land. Because of this, the facility was able to resume external tank production less than five weeks after the storm passed, including maintenance work on the external tank of the shuttle Discovery, which recently returned from a successful mission in space.

I know there were countless heroes as a result of both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and I am pleased the House of Representatives agreed to honor one such group who stayed behind to guarantee that NASA and the shuttle program would continue to lead the world in space exploration.

Throughout the month of August, please do not hesitate to contact my office toll free at 866-289-9210 with your comments and concerns. I will continue to work for the people of the Third Congressional District and the issues that are most important to you.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE MELANCON
Member of Congress

the National Debt

☐ FEMA

☐ Health Care and
Prescription Drugs

☐ Hurricane Recovery

☐ Immigration

☐ Insurance

☐ Jobs and Economic
Development

☐ Levees/Hurricane
Protection

☐ Medicare

☐ Oil and Gas Industry

☐ Protecting Life

☐ Second Amendment
Rights

☐ Shrimping and Fishing

☐ Small Business

☐ Social Security

☐ Taxes

☐ Terrorism and
Homeland Security

☐ Veterans Issues

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